

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/481,396

Examiner

ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ

Applicant(s)

TANAKA, KOICHIRO

Art Unit

2828

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to AMENDMENT FILED OCTOBER 8, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-37.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 April 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7-1-02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Claims 1-37 are pending.

The 35 USC 102 rejection of claims 3,6,13-16,24,25,35 and 36 are withdrawn based on applicant's amendment filed on October 8, 2004.

The 35 USC 103 rejection of claims 26 and 37 are withdrawn based on applicant's amendment filed on October 8, 2004.

Claims 1,2,4,5,7-12,17-23,27-34 have been previously allowed in office action mailed on August 19, 2004.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-37 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

After reviewing applicant's amendment, arguments and conducting an updated search none of the cited prior arts alone or in combination discloses the claimed laser irradiation apparatus having the recited limitations of independent claims 1-3,7,10 and 13, where the shape of the laser beam is modified before entering the cylindrical lens group for providing a uniform annealing laser beam.

Regarding claims 1,3,4,6-20,24-37,

None of cited prior arts discloses the combination of a beam generating unit, a cylindrical lens group for dividing the beam, an optical system for overlapping the divided beam and in particular modifying the beam by having a slit located between the

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beam generating and the cylindrical lens group for making edges of the emitted laser beam, thereby providing a beam with an even energy distribution.

Regarding claims 2,5,21-23,

None of cited prior arts discloses the combination of a beam generating unit, a cylindrical lens group for dividing the beam, an optical system for overlapping the divided beam and in particular modifying the beam by having the width of the cylindrical lens group narrower than the width of the emitted laser beam.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ whose telephone number is 571-272-1952. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MINSUN HARVEY can be reached on 571-272-1835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ
Examiner
Art Unit 2828


MINSUN HARVEY
SUPERVISOR
Art Unit 2828

AR/MH